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# THE MILITANT



Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

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## N.R.A. Ballyhoo and the Facts Behind It

When Roosevelt spoke over the radio on Sunday, October 22, he evidently had not read the last issue of that most respectable business bulletin, the *Annalist*. In his speech he declared:

"The whole picture however—the average of the whole territory from coast to coast, the average of the whole population of 120,000,000 people—shows to any person, willing to look, facts and action of which you and I can be proud."

What these facts are the *Annalist* of Oct. 20, makes very clear. It gives the following record for September: Industrial production—down 7.6%; Retail trade—down 5 percent; Real wages—down 4 percent; and last but not least, Retail prices—up 4 percent. Indeed a picture "to be proud of."

After nonchalantly eliminating a few million unemployed "who preferred not to work at all" Roosevelt continues: "It seems, therefore, fair to say that there were about 10,000,000 of our citizens who were seeking work and could not get it. Of these, I am convinced that at least 4,000,000 have been given employment."

Roosevelt only added some 400,000 to the A. F. L. figures for reemployment which are by far the most inaccurate of all employment figures. At a time when all other estimates of unemployment ranged from 15 to 17 millions the A. F. L. figures were only 13 million. The A. F. L. reports 871,000 reemployed in September. The *Annalist* reports 408,000 reemployed which amounts to .08% of the population.

But does Roosevelt want to be accurate? The answer is clear—why should he be accurate? Roosevelt knows very well what is happening. He knows that, as the *Annalist* states, 40% of the March to July spurt was lost by the end of September, and that by this time more has been lost. He knows that all real indicators of business activity with the exception of zinc production, including steel, pig iron, wool and silk production, cotton, wood and power consumption, auto, lumber and cement production, have gone down since the end of July. He knows that the *Annalist's* Index of General Business Activity was 89.5 for July and only 76.9 for August. Roosevelt knows all this. But it is not to his interest to admit that the much-boasted N. R. A. recovery is—a flop. —PETER MORTON.

## The Painters General Strike

The debacle of the Brownsville section of the Alteration Painters Union in the strike is a bitter lesson about Stalinist trade union tactics. The strike, which was called in competition with the Brotherhood, Local 102 of the A. F. of L., ended in an ignominious and crushing defeat for the Stalinists, and the loss of whatever influence they had in (Kitt). They refused our proposal (Kitt) for one general strike, and for entry into the A. F. of L. They sought to make capital out of the situation among the painters and build their "revolutionary" union. What is worse, they refused the offer to take them into the Brotherhood.

What were the results? During the first week or so the Union pulled down about 300 workers, and settled a number of shops. Negotiations were carried on with the Bosses' Association and the party leaders managed to keep the painters inspired by constantly reminding them of this and by continually making glowing promises of victory.

However, within a short time the absence of a Left wing within the Brotherhood, coupled with the fact that it controlled the majority of the workers in the trade, made itself felt. Shop after shop that had settled with the A. F. U. was taken over by the Brotherhood. Either the workers were terrorized into joining Local 102 by the A. F. of L. gangsters or coerced into it by the bosses, who signed separate agreements with the Brotherhood. Whenever the painters refused; the A. F. of L. placed pickets outside the building. The Stalinists met this move by beating up the pickets, who were rank and file Brotherhood men and had been ordered to picket by their officials.

## Celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Left Opposition in America

Hail the Movement for a New Party and the Fourth International!

A great event in the history of the revolutionary movement in America will be the banquet to celebrate the fifth birthday of the Communist League—and to hail the coming of the Fourth International.

Present at this banquet will be outstanding celebrities in Communist and labor ranks in the United States. Among those attending will be Ben Gitlow, Secretary of the Workers Communist League and one of the founders of the American Communist party; V. F. Calverton, editor of the *Modern Monthly*; Ernest Sutherland Bates, noted radical publicist; Ed Lindgren, prominent figure in the early days of the Left wing movement in support of the Russian revolution; Diego Rivera, the famous artist; and others. For the first time in years, representatives of different sections of the

workers' movement will sit at one banquet table and take part in the festivities. Besides addresses from the comrades mentioned above it will be an evening of gala entertainment. A new revolutionary skit will be performed for the first time at the banquet by some of our star revolutionary actors. Last but not least in mention is the delicious food to be served to the comrades and friends attending.

The banquet will take place Saturday, November 4th at 8 P. M. at Stuyvesant Casino, 9th St. and Second Avenue. Make sure to get tickets for yourself and your friends. They are 50 cents a plate. Dirt cheap! Be on hand for this great gala event to celebrate the anniversary of the *Militant*, the Communist League of America and to hail the Fourth International!

## Terzani Accuser Faces Trial

New York City. — District Attorney Charles S. Cullen of Queens County has failed to keep his promise to conduct a new inquiry into the killing of Anthony Fierro, young anti-Fascist slain at a meeting of the Fascist Khaki Shirts, the Terzani Defense Committee charged today.

Commander Smith of the Khaki Shirts was recently held in \$400 bail for the grand jury in Philadelphia on a charge of fraudulent conversion of furniture. He had fled from his headquarters early on Oct. 12, after members of his general staff had marched against his suddenly announced plan to "take over the city" and seize three armories preliminary to a march on Washington scheduled for that day. For four days Smith was missing. Then he came back, surrendered, got bail, and audaciously announced that he would re-establish his organization and push on with his Fascist program. He asserted that he had been plotted against by the police and the radicals.

## Organizing Steel Workers in Ohio

Youngstown, O. — Youngstown's steel workers were recently given the opportunity to judge the harmful policy of Stalinism in the Steel and Metal Workers' Industrial Union. Early in September the SMWIU led a brief but successful strike in the chipping department of the Republic Steel Corporation. The concrete demands they fought for were higher wages and equal division of work. A good percentage of the chippers were organized into the SMWIU at the time, but they proved incapable of building up the organization any further. Several weeks ago the chipping department shut down, throwing all the men out of work. When it reopened three days later, all the gains won by the strikers were canceled, as none of the men known to have been active in the union were called back to work. They found themselves neatly and effectively locked out.

A Strike of the Unemployed  
Of the thousands employed at Republic Steel, the chippers represent about two hundred. The leaders of the union saw hundreds of thousands of workers on strike throughout the country, steel workers battling valiantly in Ambridge and Weirton, and decided that conditions had been made to order for them. The local leaders immediately called a meeting of the laid-off men, about seventy in number, and this so-called perfect union decided to pull a strike. For the rank and file to make such a mistake was excusable, but the leadership allowed itself to be carried away by the blind enthusiasm of the workers and endorsed the adventure. As none of the employed chippers were even called for a joint meeting with their fellow-workers, the SMWIU got precisely what they wanted—a hundred percent strike of the unemployed chippers. It is undoubtedly more than a coincidence that identically this tactic was being repeated at the same time in the Buffalo plant of Republic steel.

Although the overwhelming majority of the Youngstown steel workers have never been in any union, even they could see something wrong. The "strike" was obviously doomed to failure from the start. The union got out leaflets with the hopelessly vague demand. Make the bosses keep their promise to equalize work. The leaflets were so worded that they gave the impression that the entire Buffalo plant had walked out. Workers took the leaflets, laughed at them, tore them up and went back to work. Even the local bosses and their propaganda sheets after the first momentary panic, were able to laugh it off. So it was no wonder that the strikers themselves became aware of the farcical role they were playing and called off the strike the next day.

Stalinist Policy Isolates Militants  
The lessons to be drawn from this incident are quite apparent. The class conscious militant workers, forced by the criminal policy of the SMWIU to remain isolated from the working class, are further than ever away from the masses. The workers in the mills, insofar as they were organizing, are almost all going into the Amalgamated Association unless a fighting Left wing is speedily formed in the American Federation of Labor union, these workers will be left completely at the mercy of Mike Tighe and his crew of labor skates. Thus the vicious tactic of the Communist party and its false-face, the SMWIU, in the long run play directly into the hands of the A. F. of L. bureaucrats.

It is significant to note the elaborate (Continued on page 4)

## Silk Dyers Vote for Separate Agreement

Paterosn, N. J.—The great odds fought against by the embattled silk workers have been greatly increased by the split in the ranks occasioned by the vote of the dye workers under the U. T. W. to accept the agreement and return to work. The fifteen thousand workers in the dye houses are taking up their places at the tubs after a seven-week strike under a contract offering concessions in wages and union recognition.

Under the separate agreement the dyers have obtained union recognition for their organization, the United Textile Workers, from the powerful Institute of Dyers and Printers, the manufacturers association. They have been granted a minimum wage of \$23 which constitutes an increase of from five to seven dollars over what they had been receiving prior to the strike. The closed shop was not obtained, according to the contract, to deal with the union shop committees over grievances, firing, etc.

## Vote Not Unanimous

The vote for the agreement was neither unanimous nor did it include the majority of the dye workers, although a decisive section participated. The sentiment of the dye workers cannot be judged accurately by the outcome of the vote because the majority of the dyers did not vote and because of the peculiar ballot they were asked to cast. They were asked to vote on the following questions: "Do you favor acceptance of the settlement terms?" 3,311 voted for acceptance and 1,422 voted against. The second question, which undoubtedly appeared to be a contradiction to the workers was: "Do you want to stay out until the weavers return?" 1,913 declared for staying out with the weavers and 2,539 for returning to the job immediately.

The large size of this minority vote is highly symptomatic of the confusion and doubt in the minds of the dyers, inexperienced in union affairs and taken in by the trick method of posing the question. The dyers were faced with a dilemma. The agreement gave them certain concessions—wages, recognition, etc.—and consequently there was some sentiment for its acceptance. But the question must have no doubt cropped up: "If we have an agreement, and the agreement is favorable, then why not return to work; why wait for the weavers who may be out for a long time yet?"

## The Separation of the Dyers

The question of a national strike settlement and of the dependence of one section of the silk industry upon another was never made clear to the dyers. They did not perceive the heavy blow they were dealing the weavers by returning to work. They had not years of experience and a tradition of many strikes to make them aware of this elementary lesson of solidarity. The isolation of the dyers into a separate union had awakened early craft consciousness. Only vaguely did they feel themselves part of the strike led by the American Federation of Silk Workers.

On the other hand the dye workers were handicapped by bad leadership. Leading their section of the strike, were two old-line politicians, Vigorito and Pirola, self-seeking, out for votes. The dyers' interests were secondary to their own careerist ambitions. Besides these two shady figures was the conniving and fakery of McMahon through his agent, Pat Quinlan. A conscious Left wing was not present in the dyers' local. Except if one, by the stretch of the imagination could consider Jack Rubenstein of the Lovestonites in that category. But Rubenstein failed to take a clear position on most back of the questions facing the dyers. Where he should have been strong and uncompromising he was weak and conciliatory. He took no definite position before the dyers on the question of breaking the ranks of the strike and accepting the separate agreement. The policy of the Lovestonites of pussyfooting before the A. F. of L. skates had disastrous consequences here as it has in every case.

## Disruptive Role of N. T. W.

If the dyers were misguided by the reactionaries they were confused and demoralized by the disruptive policy of the National Textile Workers Union. At the outset the Stalinists divided the dyers into two unions. They continued with baseless recrimination. When they felt the ground was slipping under their feet the Stalinists began to pack the meetings of the U. T. W. dyers with disruption as their aim. They succeeded in winning over two "dyers" on their insincere proposals for united action—the old-line politicians, Vigorito and Pirola!

The strike committee of the dyers (Continued on page 4)

## Gangster Attack on Chicago League Meet

Stalinist Hoodlums Repulsed as Swabek Speaks for New Party and New International

Chicago.—An organized attempt by 150 Stalinists to break up the meeting called by the Chicago branch of the Communist League of America (Left Opposition), for comrade Arne Swabek, last Sunday, on the subject of the new party and the new International, was prevented by the quickly assembled defense of all workers in the audience.

Meeting in response to instructions from the District Committee of Chicago at Polk's Hut, a party headquarters, the party members marched en masse to the Opposition meeting with the aim of breaking it up. They entered the Opposition headquarters in a body, leaving a "picket line" outside of the hall to tell workers that the meeting was either called off, or had been removed to another quarter. Even this pitiful tactic did not succeed in keeping workers from the meeting.

## Hooligan Tactics Repulsed

No sooner did comrade Glotzer open the meeting, when the hooligan and gangster tactics began in a rehearsed fashion. The Stalinists raised the cry of electing a chairman from the floor. Refusing to recognize the frenzied outburst, the chairman announced that the procedure of the meeting was so planned that representatives of every point of view in the workers movement would be given an opportunity to state their views from the floor. This apparently was unsatisfactory to the Stalinists who were determined either to "take over" the meeting or prevent its continuance.

Even after being assured that they would be given sufficient time to present their views they still insisted on electing a chairman from the floor (at a meeting organized and called by the Opposition). They would not permit the meeting to go on and began stamping, shouting, and organizing their own caucus by setting up the petty section bureaucrat, Jack Spiegel, to start speaking from one of the benches in the hall.

In the turmoil and over the protests of the workers in the hall, the Stalinists began to employ their strongarm tactics. Incited by their leaders, the rank and file Party members began a struggle to seize the meeting, only to be deserted by their bureaucratic inciters, who, during the course of the fight, had left the hall. The fight subsided after the Stalinists were repulsed and they returned one by one to their seats agreeing to a compromise! They were willing to allow the Left Opposition to run its own meeting provided the Party were given ample opportunity to present its own views to the meeting!

It became quite clear to all the workers after this turn-about-face that their real purpose had been to break up the meeting. They failed in this and then agreed to accept the terms announced in the very beginning by the chairman, comrade Glotzer.

## Meeting Hears Swabek

Comrade Swabek spoke for over an hour, tracing the events prior to the victory of Hitler in Germany

## Bellusi Case Needs the Support of Workers

Philadelphia.—For the past few months Antonio Bellusi, a militant Italian worker, has been held in the Gloucester Immigration Station awaiting deportation.

He has been in the labor movement ever since 1918. He was a member of the Italian Socialist Party and later joined the Italian C. P. In 1924 he took a ship and came to the United States, where he immediately became a member of the C. P. U. S. A. from which he was later expelled for protesting against the expulsion of Bordiga, from the Italian C. P.

Antonio Bellusi was arrested in July of this year in Wilkes-Barre on the charge of distributing the *Militant*. His home was raided and books were found which gave documentary proof that this worker has been an active fighter, for 15 years, in behalf of the toiling masses.

The only thing that the I. L. D. has done so far is to assign Errol White to defend him (legally). They have not mobilized their membership. As a matter of fact the lawyer had to spend his own money to go to Wilkes-Barre to defend this worker. Although this worker is not a member of any political party his sympathies are with the International Left Opposition. If for no other reason than this the I. L. D. would be "justified" in sabotaging his defense.

A committee against deportation was to be formed, on which Lou Roberts was the representative of the Phila. branch. The committee never met due to no fault of ours. Comrade Roberts time and again, kept on hammering away, but the Stalinist sabotaging machine could not be budged.

Indoor mass meetings were arranged for September 1, 4, 15, but they were all called off. Seeing we could not expect much from the I. L. D. we called an open air meeting at 13th and Reed. We asked for an Italian speaker. Again the sabotaging machine of the Stalinists was in evidence. Had we not gone over the head of Stern (the I. L. D. L. O.) and gone directly to the Sacco and Vanzetti branch of the I. L. D. where we succeeded in getting comrade Nelli to address the crowd, the request would have remained on the I. L. D. desk.

On September 29 a mass meeting had been arranged without Roberts being informed. When we learned of this we offered our support. Again the meeting was postponed.

Not knowing that the I. L. D. had already arranged a mass meeting on October 24 (we heard of this indirectly), we arranged one for October 28. At our branch meeting a committee was elected to ask the I. L. D. to participate. When we heard that the I. L. D. had arranged a meeting we agreed to call off our meeting in order to have a joint one. We offered to pay either for the rent of the hall or for the leaflets. Stern (in the name of the I. L. D. District Bureau) rejected this offer.

A committee of three will again approach the I. L. D. District Bureau which meets Friday, October 28. It appears that we will have to carry on the defense of Antonio Bellusi independently of the I. L. D. for they have been a deadweight in so far as organizing any kind of mass defense is concerned. —L. R.

## Statement on N. Y. Elections

The workers of New York are once more confronted with a municipal election. This time the contest takes on particular importance by the fact that it is the first important election to be held in the United States since the promulgation of the National Recovery Act and the rest of the Roosevelt program to patch up the crisis-ridden capitalist structure. It is the first opportunity that any large group sentiments on the parliamentary field towards the "recovery" program. Consequently the local election to produce the much-advertised expected results, foreshadows the widespread disillusionment that will penetrate to the millions of workers as they become increasingly conscious of the powerlessness of the capitalist government to accomplish any genuine prosperity for the masses, as they realize that the NRA is an instrument in the hands of the bloated ruling class to curb and repress the growing revival of the labor movement.

In New York City, the representatives of the National Recovery Administration have already shown their hand. Whalen and Co. have exerted all their efforts to bridge the rising movement of the workers, to prevent them from striking vigorous blows for the improvement of their conditions, to subvert every workers' movement to

## ANTI-FASCIST DEMONSTRATION

The Italian Unitarian Anti-Fascist Committee, composed of representative working class organizations has set Saturday, October 28 as a day of struggle against Fascism. A demonstration will take place before the Italian Consulate. The demonstration will begin at 10:30 A. M. The gathering point: 72nd Street and First Avenue. All workers out to the demonstration against bloody Fascism!

## ATTENTION

All members and sympathizers of the Communist League are urged to present at 10 A. M. Saturday, October 28 to proceed in a body to the demonstration.

## OPEN FORUM

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL  
Speaker:  
JAMES P. CANNON  
Friday, November 3, 1933  
8 P. M.  
at International Workers School  
128 East 16th Street  
Sponsors: Manhattan Branch,  
Communist League of America  
(Opposition)  
ADMISSION 10 CENTS